GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:512
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2006
SHORTAGE OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force is facing shortage of fighter aircraft and helicopters;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Air Force proposes to acquire 126 fighter aircrafts and 80 helicopters as a part of its efforts to strengthen its airpower as reported in the Hindu dated June 18, 2006;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the brand of fighter aircraft selected therefor; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (d): Government constantly review the security environment and accordingly decide to induct appropriate equipment and to make other arrangements for adequate defence preparedness. The purchase of fighter aircraft and helicopters required for the Air Force is made in accordance with the established Defence Procurement Procedure. This procedure envisages a time frame of 2-3 years for conclusion of contract in such major purchases. It would not be in the interest of national security to give further details.